

Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series
Updated: December 7, 2007

NOTE: New Conference code for January and February, 2008

January 7, 2008

Topic: Blood Lead Testing

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator: Ed Luce, QA manager, Vermont State Laboratory

Email: eluce@vdh.state.vt.us

Phone: 802-863-7637

Agenda

1. Describe what instrumentation is used for Blood Lead and EP testing
 2. Describe what QC material and action limits are used for test runs
 3. Discuss the action levels and reportable limits in each state
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February 4, 2008

Topic: Processing and Testing Environmental Samples for Biological and Chemical agents

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 684235

Facilitator: Peggy DiNatale, QA MA DPH

Email: Margaret.DiNatale@MassMail.State.Ma.Us

Phone: 617-983-6243

Agenda

1. What screening is required to be performed by the first responders before the State Lab will accept the sample?
2. When an environmental sample needs to be sent to the State Lab, are first responders instructed to collect: (a) most or all of the sample; (b) an aliquot of the sample; (c) a swab of the sample?
3. What is the acceptable protocol for handling suspect envelopes in the field? Must they be closed or open when they are submitted to the lab?
4. What chemical screening is performed by your state's first responders?
5. After the lab's biohazard testing is negative, what chemical testing is performed by the LRN-C lab?
6. What trainings are your BT/CT labs providing to first responders?

Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series
Updated: December 7, 2007

NOTE: New conference code for March – December, 2008

March 3, 2008

Topic: Sequence Analysis for Bacteria and Mycobacteria

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 470797

Facilitator: Kimberly Musser, Ph.D. - Director, Bacteriology Laboratory, Wadsworth Center
Email: musser@wadsworth.org Phone: 518-473-2780

Agenda

1. What sequence analysis assays are used in your laboratory? Are they used for identification or characterization?
2. Are any of these assays reported on clinical samples as a stand alone test or in conjunction with classical methods? Is any environmental sequence analysis performed?
3. How are these tests validated? What databases are utilized?
4. How are they being reported? Are these results reported in conjunction with the results of conventional test methods?

Some examples for discussion may include: 16S, 23S, rpoB, katG, embB, pncA for TB resistance, KPC gene, tcdC deletion in *C. difficile*

April 7, 2008

Topic: Biosafety for High Containment Laboratories

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 470797

Facilitator: Christina Egan, Ph.D. – Deputy Director, Biodefense Laboratory, Wadsworth Center
Email: cte01@health.state.ny.us Phone: 518-473-6900

Agenda

1. Recommendations for PPE and serum banking
 2. BT agent surveillance (culture and molecular)
 3. Staff proficiency strategies for BSL3 laboratories
 4. Select agent storage and inventory
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May 5, 2008

Topic: NELAC Accreditation for Laboratories Testing BioThreat Samples

Time: 11 am – 12 noon Telephone number: 410-786-3100 conference code: 470797

Facilitator - Christina Egan, Ph.D. - Deputy Director, Biodefense Laboratory
Email: cte01@health.state.ny.us Phone: 518-473-6900

Agenda

1. Staff qualifications for analysts
2. QA/QC procedures for biothreat sample processing
3. Issues with laboratories complying with both CLIA and NELAC standards

Northeast Public Health Labs Teleconference Series
Updated: December 7, 2007

June 2, 2008

Topic: ELISA testing

Time: 11 am – 12 noon

Telephone number: 410-786-3100

conference code: 470797

Facilitator TBD

Tentative Agenda

1. Who performs ELISA testing in your state laboratory? One laboratory or multiple laboratories.
 2. What ELISA testing does your laboratory perform? (Brucella, Tularemia, DigiELISA for FERN botulinum assay, other assays)
 3. How do you perform these assays
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